

# CRS Report for Congress

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## United States Military Casualty Statistics: Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom

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### Summary

This report presents difficult-to-find statistics regarding U.S. military casualties in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF, Afghanistan), including those concerning medical evacuations, amputations, and the demographics of casualties. Some of these statistics are publically available at the Department of Defense's (DOD's) website, while others have been obtained through contact with experts at DOD.

Daily updates of total U.S. military casualties in OIF and OEF can be found at the DOD's website, at [<http://www.dior.whs.mil/mmid/casualty/castop.htm>]. In addition, the CRS Report RS21578, *Iraq: Summary of U.S. Casualties* is updated on a weekly basis.

This report will be updated as needed.

**Table 1. Total U.S. Military Casualties — Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, As of May 15, 2006**

	Operation Iraqi Freedom	Operation Enduring Freedom
Non-Hostile Deaths	503	137
Hostile Deaths	1,822	143
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>2,325</b>	<b>280</b>
<b>Total Wounded</b>	<b>17,469</b>	<b>718</b>

**Source:** Department of Defense, [<http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/OIF-Total.pdf>]. Weekly updates of this information can be found in CRS Report RS21578, *Iraq: Summary of U.S. Casualties*.

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## Medical Evacuation Statistics — U.S. Military Personnel

All U.S. military personnel evacuation statistics are provided to CRS by DOD's Deployment Health Support Directorate (DHSD) and the Army Office of the Surgeon General. The numbers listed in this report are taken from DOD's May 18, 2006; March 7, 2006; July 14, 2005, February 8, 2005; and October 18, 2004 updates. All numbers have been generated using the Transportation Command (TRANSCOM) Regulation and Command and Control Evacuation System (TRAC2ES).

### Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)

According to DOD, a total of 26,802 individuals were medically evacuated from OIF from March 19, 2003, to May 18, 2006.

**Table 2. Medical Reasons for Evacuations**

	As of September 30, 2004	As of December 31, 2004	As of July 11, 2005	As of February 27, 2006
Battle Injuries	17%	19%	19%	20%
Non-Battle Injuries	21%	22%	17%	17%
Disease	63%	59%	64%	63%

**Source:** Department of Defense, Deployment Health Support Directorate.

**Table 3. Distribution of Evacuations Among the Services**

	As of September 30, 2004	As of December 31, 2004	As of July 11, 2005	As of February 27, 2006
Army	83%	83%	80%	83%
Marines	8%	10%	6%	12%
Air Force	3%	5%	3%	3%
Navy	2%	2%	7%	2%
Other <sup>a</sup>	N/A	N/A	4%	N/A

**Source:** Department of Defense, Deployment Health Support Directorate.

a. This category was added in the July 14, 2005 update and includes civilians, foreign nationals, and others. It was dropped in the March 7, 2006 update.

## Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)

According to DOD, a total of 4,619 individuals were medically evacuated from OEF between October 27, 2001 through February 27, 2006.

**Table 4. Medical Reasons for Evacuation**

	As of September 30, 2004	As of December 31, 2004	As of July 11, 2005	As of February 27, 2006
Battle Injuries	8%	9%	8%	9%
Non-Battle Injuries	28%	27%	17%	18%
Disease	64%	64%	75%	73%

**Source:** Department of Defense, Deployment Health Support Directorate.

**Table 5. Distribution of Evacuations Among the Services**

	As of September 30, 2004	As of December 31, 2004	As of July 11, 2005	As of February 27, 2006
Army	69%	84%	67%	73%
Marines	11%	8%	7%	8%
Air Force	15%	7%	16%	16%
Navy	4%	1%	4%	3%
Other <sup>a</sup>	N/A	N/A	6%	N/A

**Source:** Department of Defense, Deployment Health Support Directorate.

a. This category was added in the July 14, 2005, update and includes civilians, foreign nationals, and others. It was dropped in the March 7, 2006 update.

## Amputation and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Statistics for American Forces

Amputation and TBI statistics are provided to CRS by the Army Office of the Surgeon General. These injuries may overlap, that is, a single soldier may experience both a TBI and an amputation. The Army has subdivided its numbers to show this possible overlap; according to their statistics in March 2006, of the total 1,124 Army soldiers injured in the Global War on Terrorism (or GWOT, which includes OIF, OEF and some additional contingencies that do not contribute large numbers), 895 (or 80%) sustained a single injury, while 229 (or 20%) sustained multiple injuries.

Keeping these possible overlaps in mind, as of May 3, 2006, DOD reported a total of 674 amputations during OIF and OEF. Of the total number of amputations, 575 were sustained in OIF, 41 were sustained in OEF, and 58 were sustained during non-deployment. Of all amputations, 42.1% were caused by improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

As of March 31, 2006, DOD reported a total of 1,179 traumatic brain injuries, or TBIs, during OIF and OEF. Of those TBIs, 96% or 1,128, were sustained during OIF, while 4%, or 50, were sustained during OEF. Of the total injuries in OIF and OEF, 222 were counted as “severe” or “penetrating.”

## Gender Distribution of Deaths

Statistics in **Tables 6** and **7** concerning the gender distribution of OIF and OEF casualties are available on DOD’s military casualty information website. All numbers are current as of April 29, 2006.

**Table 6. Operation Iraqi Freedom**

Gender	Military Deaths	% of Total Deaths
Male	2,345	97.8%
Female	52	2.2%
Total	2,397	100.0%

**Source:** DOD, Operation Iraqi Freedom — Military Deaths, at [<http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/oif-deaths-total.pdf>].

**Table 7. Operation Enduring Freedom**

Gender	Military Deaths	% of Total Deaths
Male	272	97.1%
Female	8	2.9%
Total	280	100.0%

**Source:** DOD, Operation Enduring Freedom — Military Deaths, at [<http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/OEFDEATHS.pdf>].

## Race/Ethnicity Distribution of Deaths

Statistics in **Tables 8** and **9** concerning the race and ethnicity distribution of OIF and OEF casualties are available on DOD's military casualty information website. All numbers are current as of April 29, 2006. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

**Table. 8 Operation Iraqi Freedom**

Race/Ethnicity	Military Deaths	% of Total Deaths
American Indian or Alaska Native	26	1.1%
Asian	43	1.8%
Black or African American	240	10.0%
Hispanic or Latino	270	11.3%
Multiple races, pending or unknown	31	1.3%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	25	1.0%
White	1,762	73.5%
Total	2,397	100.0%

**Source:** DOD, Operation Iraqi Freedom — Military Deaths, at [<http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/oif-deaths-total.pdf>].

**Table 9. Operation Enduring Freedom**

Race/Ethnicity	Military Deaths	% of Total Deaths
American Indian or Alaska Native	4	1.4%
Asian	2	0.7%
Black or African American	21	7.5%
Hispanic or Latino	24	8.6%
Multiple races, pending or unknown	1	0.4%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	3	1.1%
White	225	80.4%
Total	280	100.0%

**Source:** DOD, Operation Enduring Freedom — Military Deaths, at [<http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/OEFDEATHS.pdf>].